

# Atlantic Richfield Company

**Roy I. Thun**  
Environmental Project Manager

6 Centerpointe Drive  
LaPalma, CA. 90623-1066  
Office: (661) 287-3855  
Fax: (661) 222-7349  
E-mail: thunri1@bp.com

May 3, 2007

## **CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Jim Sickles  
Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-2  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: April 2007 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada:  
Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA Docket  
No. 9-2007-0005**

Dear Mr. Sickles:

Pursuant to the above referenced order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), please note the following monthly status report for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) activities at the Yerington Mine Site during April 2007.

### Operations, Maintenance and Site Security

- Pumpback well system averaged approximately 58.4 gpm; all 11 wells operated 24/7 with minor downtime for preventive maintenance (wells PW-4, PW-7 and PW-8).
- Completed pumpback well system pipeline preventive maintenance, including hydro-jet flushing the inside of all 3" and 4" header pipes (6,000 ft) and laterals to remove encrustation.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS) operations continued. Total estimated gallons transferred from VLT Pond to Evaporation Pond = 342,000 gal. SSP to VLT Pond = 0 gal; SSP to Evaporation Pond = 0 gal; Plant Feed to Evaporation Pond = 12,000 gal; Raff sump to Phase 1 Pond = 0 gal. Pond levels: Evaporation Pond = 4.75 ft; VLT Pond = 2.75 ft; Slot 2 Pond = 7.25ft.
- Pumpback Well System 2006 Operations and Monitoring Summary report Submitted April 30.
- Installation of "Danger Keep Out" signs around all ponds about 60 percent complete.

### Groundwater Monitoring

- Continued 1Q 2007 sample analyses, data management and QA/QC process.
- Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements completed April 30.

### Site Characterization

- Continued revised AQM program.
- Prepared follow-up responses to EPA comments on the Second Step Hydrogeologic Framework Assessment Work Plan. Selected Boart Longyear to conduct the drilling. Identified property owners with new B/W well locations and initiated access agreements with the owners.
- Initiated responses to the draft revised draft revised Interim Anaconda Ponds Work Plan.

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- Continued wildlife observation activities (field surveys and camera trap photo-documentation).
- Continued development of the Conceptual Site Model.
- Submitted the draft Data Management Plan.
- Continued development of the data quality objectives (DQOs) and field sampling and analysis plan ("FSAP") for the Site-Wide Groundwater RI Work Plan, including a conference call with EPA.
- Continued development of the data quality objectives (DQOs) and field sampling and analysis plan ("FSAP") for the Process Areas RI Work Plan, including a conference call with EPA.
- The cultural resources inventory report for the area of background soils sampling is still under review by the BLM (Carson City Field Office).

#### Other Site Activities

- Quaterra personnel staked mine claims in northern area of the Site April 25.
- Joe Sawyer (NDEP) conducted monthly site inspection April 12.
- Stan Weimeyer (USFWS) conducted bird counts April 3, 10, 19, and 24.

#### **Planned May 2007 Activities**

- Continue O&M, site security activities.
- Perform primary road maintenance (wetting/grading).
- Complete 1Q 2007 sample analysis data management and QA/QC process.
- 2Q 2007 groundwater sampling event, including annual domestic well sampling scheduled for week of May 14.
- Attend Stakeholder's meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> and Technical Working Group meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Submit revised Draft Conceptual Site Model by May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Initiate Second Step Hydrogeologic Framework Assessment Work Plan field investigations on May 24, pending EPA approval of April response to comment submittals.
- Submit letters requesting extensions to the submittal dates for the Draft Site-Wide Groundwater RI Work Plan and Draft Process Areas RI Work Plan.
- Submit responses to comments for the revised Draft Interim Work Plan for Anaconda Evaporation Ponds.
- Initiate logistics for the background soils sampling program.
- Initiate an independent study on the potential use of phyto-remediation at the Site. The study will be led by Frank Thomas (KMA Environmental) and Dr. David Tsao of BP. On-site test plantings of various tree species will be done to evaluate their potential use for phyto-remediation of groundwater. Sap flow tests will also be performed on established cottonwood trees adjacent to the sulfide tailings.
- As EPA comments are received for draft versions of the HASP, QAPP and DMP, initiate modifications to these documents and prepare responses to comments.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (661) 287-3855 or via e-mail at [thunril@bp.com](mailto:thunril@bp.com).

Sincerely,

*Chuck Zimmerman for*  
Roy Thun  
Environmental Business Manager

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cc: Nadia Hollan, EPA – via electronic mail  
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail  
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail  
Dan Newell, City of Yerington Manager – via electronic mail  
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail  
Chris Winsor, Atlantic Richfield Company - via electronic mail  
Todd Normane, Atlantic Richfield Company – via electronic mail  
Rich Curley, Holland & Hart – via electronic mail  
Chuck Zimmerman, Brown and Caldwell  
Ed Schneider, Norwest Applied Hydrology – via electronic mail  
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